AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the subjective quality of an audio-visual stimulus, comprising:

measuring the actual synchronisation errors between the audio and visual elements of the stimulus;

identifying characteristics of audio and visual cues in the stimulus <u>that are</u> indicative of the significance of synchronization errors;

generating a measure of subjective quality from said synchronisation errors and characteristics;

analysing the audio and visual elements of the stimulus for the presence of <u>said</u> characteristic features indicative of the significance of synchronisation errors; and modifying the measure of subjective quality derived from the synchronisation errors and characteristics according to whether said characteristic features are present.

- 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the characteristics of the audio and visual cues are used to generate one or more synchronisation error tolerance values.
- 3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the audiovisual stimulus is monitored for occurrences of synchronisation errors exceeding said tolerance values.

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- 4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the means generating the stimulus is controlled to maintain the synchronisation in a predetermined relationship with the said tolerance values.
- 5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the resulting measure of subjective quality is used to control the operation of an avatar animation process.
- 6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for determining the subjective quality of an audio-visual stimulus, comprising:

means for measuring the actual synchronisation errors between the audio and visual elements of the stimulus;

means for identifying characteristics of audio and visual elements of the stimulus that are indicative of the significance of synchronisation errors;

means for generating a measure of subjective quality from said synchronisation errors and characteristics;

means for analysing the audio and visual elements of the stimulus for the presence of <u>said</u> characteristic features indicative of the significance of synchronisation errors; and

means for modifying the measure of subjective quality derived from the synchronisation errors and characteristics according to whether said characteristic features are present.

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- 7. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the means for identifying cue characteristics generates one or more synchronisation error tolerance values.
- 8. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising means for monitoring the audio-visual stimulus for occurrences of synchronisation errors exceeding said tolerance values.
- 9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 8, comprising means for controlling the means generating the stimulus to maintain the synchronisation in a predetermined relationship with the said tolerance values.
- 10. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising animation process means controlled by the subjective quality measurement means to generate an animated image.
- 11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the audiovisual stimulus is a "talking-head."
- 12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the audio-visual stimulus is a "talking-head."